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THE VOICE OF
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AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

MIGHTY APIA TRY HARD FOR AUST. CUP REPEAT

APIA are firm favorites to win their second consecutive Australia Cup when they take on Melbourne-Hungaria in the final at Olympic Park next Sunday.

The 1967 final is a repeat of last year's semifinal in Sydney when APIA defeated Melbourne-HSC 3-0 before accounting for Hakoah in the all-NSW final.

This year's final is only the second in the six-year history of the Australia Cup involving clubs from different States.

The only previous final with an interstate flavor also featured APIA.

This was in 1964 when George Cross defeated the Sydney Grand Final winners of that year 3-2 at Olympic Park, after extra-time.

This year, for the first time, the Australia Cup final is between the Sydney and Melbourne competition winners.

APIA finished six points ahead of St. George-Budapest in the Sydney premiership while in Melbourne the positions were reversed with the Hungarian-sponsored Melbourne-HSC edging the Italian-supported Juventus into second place.

By a remarkable coincidence, APIA and Melbourne-Hungaria reached the final with precisely the same superb goal-average of 7.00.

APIA scored 14 goals and conceded two on their way to the final.

Melbourne-HSC netted seven goals and only let one through in their three matches to date.

Three Australian internationals, on the eve of the

Asian tour, will be on view at Olympic Park.

They are APIA's Stan Ackerley (a former Victorian, who won the 1963 Australia Cup with Slavia-Melbourne) and John Watkiss, and Attila Abonyi, the brilliant Hungaria forward.

● Bob Low and Lou Gautier preview the Cup Final on page 4.

Sth. Vietnam our first opponents

Only seven countries will take part in the Saigon Tournament.

Group I includes Australia, South Vietnam, the Philippines and Singapore; Group II, New Zealand, Malaysia and Thailand.

Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong and Nationalist China have pulled out.

The full draw is: November 4 — Australia v. South Vietnam; Nov. 5 — Singapore v. Philippines, Malaysia v. New Zealand; Nov. 7 — Sth. Vietnam v. Singapore, Thailand v. Malaysia; Nov. 9 — Philippines v. South Vietnam, Australia v. Singapore; Nov. 11 — New Zealand v. Thailand, Australia v. Philippines.

The semifinals will be played on November 12 and the final on November 14.



Pan Hellenic's Hignett (No. 3) was unable to prevent this spectacular Giacometti scissor-kick last Sunday. APIA went on to win the Australia Cup semifinal 2-1.

TEAM DUE HOME A WEEK EARLIER

The Australian national team's return from Asia has been put forward.

Instead of coming back the first week in December, the Australians will return to Sydney on Tuesday morning, November 28, after leaving Singapore the previous evening at 11 p.m.

The early return is due to the cancellation of the matches against Indonesia, which were to have been played in Djakarta on December 1 and 3.

There have also been changes in Australia's post-Saigon Tournament match dates.

To enable the tourists to come home earlier, Australia will play against Singapore on November 21 and 23, and not on November 29, after their match at Kuala Lumpur on the 25th, as planned originally.

The new match dates are:

- November 4-14: Saigon Tournament.
- November 21: v. Singapore.
- November 23: v. Singapore.
- November 25: v. Malaysia (at Kuala Lumpur).

An additional one or two matches may be played at the completion of the Saigon Tournament.

Saigon mission may start a new Asian policy

— By PAUL DEAN —

Next Monday the Australian team leaves for its Asian tour — and with them go our very best wishes.

No doubt, all members of the travelling party, officials and players alike, do realise that while in Asia, they will have to represent their native or adopted country.

They will be, as it were, Australia's sporting ambassadors in a part of the world where our need for friends has never been greater.

Our team's primary task will be in Saigon where they are scheduled to meet some of the top teams of Asia.

Despite the imperfect preparations, the whole

Australian soccer community will expect our team to do well.

Whether they can actually win the tournament remains to be seen; but not having a jolly good crack at it would certainly be disappointing.

We don't share the gloomy, doomsday attitude of a Sunday newspaper which all but called our participation in the tournament indecent.

Saigon, while the capital of warring South Vietnam, is not a cemetery that requires reverential solitude and silence.

Australia's role in that war is a fact, whether we like it or not.

Together with the USA, our troops are there, fighting for a cause believed to be vital and proper.

By sending our soccer team to Saigon we don't transgress the borders of propriety towards these troops; in fact, some may get a few hours of pleasure out of watching these games during their recreation periods.

At the same time we indicate to the people of Vietnam that Australia is keen to participate in their

sporting life, not just their war.

We sincerely wish our team well, individually and collectively.

But we also take this opportunity of expressing yet another ardent wish — that of the ASF to completely reshape our Asian policy.

The age of empty words and promises should be over — let some action follow.

Let us finally seek more permanent and more regular ties with Asian countries and the best way of starting off is to nominate NOW for the 1968 Merdeka Tournament.

Only a selfish attitude by States and, within them, the clubs, can stop the ASF from widening its Asian horizon.

Let's hope this journey will help towards that aim.

Easts had a boom season

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Reviewing the season amongst the District Associations, it is clear that the Eastern Suburbs-South Sydney area is forming the base for a very successful Association for the future.

Once the absolute and unchallenged "Cinderella" of the Sydney junior movement, Easts set up their under-9 competition this year.

The grade started things moving, and it wasn't long before the under-7 "Mini-League" was operating.

Easts officials tip at least 12 under-7 teams in 1968, with a distinct possibility of two divisions.

The new clubs from the Queens Park area, Magpies and Eagles, are leading to the establishment of clubs in East Lakes, Randwick and Botany.

Former president, Harry Gully, is now editor of the Association weekly "The Awakener," which brings up-to-date local news to all clubs.

Ex-secretary Wal Gourlie is also leading in promotion of new suburban clubs.

The 1968 executive will be Alan Cohn (Easts United) president, Bill Charr (secretary) and Peter Kent (University of NSW) treasurer.

Long-time Prague enthusiast Ernie Small has returned as senior vice-president.

The Association's biggest club, Maroubra United, has 16 teams under its very efficient control.

Hakoah and Prague junior clubs continue to provide much of the area's strength.

Pan Hellenic-Waverley had its biggest season with six teams, and took out the under-14 and 16 premierships.

Easts welcomed Melita Eagles into junior ranks for the first time, with the entry of an under-16 team.

The premier team of the Association was Progressive Sports of Newtown, a very capable Greek team, which may enter the Federation Inter-Suburban League in 1968.

Further big hopes for next year revolve around coach Bill Vrolyks, of Pan Hellenic, who is expected again to be deeply involved in the Eastern Suburbs District representative teams.

And with the 1967 Protests and Disputes Committee almost out of action for want of business, here is another welcome trend, and a feather in the caps of the players and officials building up a big soccer set-up for juniors in this key Sydney district.

PLANS FOR '68

With the end of the football season, the Sydney Metropolitan Association

has commenced a review of its 1968 plans.

Sydney secretary, Brian Emery, states that the support for the Metropolitan Championships was the best since the event commenced.

The present decision is to run District Representative championships in under-14, 15, 16 and 17 years grades.

The Association is sure of the value of these competitions in building up Sydney football standards, and making sure that the work in the young grades and schools bears fruit.

The Federation has been asked to bear the cost of professional coaches for under-14, 15 and 16.

Now that Second Division Federation clubs have decided to run under-18s as their third grade competition, the amateurs may have to review the proposed under-17 league, as there is a limit to number of new competitions which can be initiated in any one year.

With the end of the junior season last week, the full list of Sydney KO Cup winning Associations is:

- Under 8: Banks-town.
- Under 9: St. George.
- Under 10: Sutherland.
- Under 11: Granville.
- Under 12: Granville.
- Under 13: Banks-town.
- Under 14: St. George.
- Under 15: Banks-town.
- Under 16: Canterbury or Bankstown.
- Under 18: Western Suburbs.
- Under 12: Gladesville-Hornsby.
- All-Age: Granville.
- Ladies: Hume United.

GROUNDS NEEDED

The big need for Northern Suburbs juniors is for more grounds in 1968 for Saturday morning games.

District junior secretary, Bob Campbell, put in a strong plea for all junior clubs in the area to press councils for more morning grounds.

Only Hallstrom Park, Willoughby, Gore Creek and North Ryde Ovals are available on Saturday mornings, and this is simply not enough.

Senior clubs on the North side might well assist in obtaining morning grounds for juniors, as they will reap the benefit in future years.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

APIA's tour of NEW CALEDONIA is off. The club received a letter from Noumea last week advising them the proposed matches were cancelled because of the visit of the Australian "B" national team.

Miss MIA KOUMAKI, the Hellenic Club's candidate, won the 1967 Miss Pan Hellenic quest. She raised \$1,450. Total money raised by all quest entrants was \$4,250.

Last Friday the ST. GEORGE-BUDAPEST players were presented with specially engraved plaques by their club to commemorate a memorable season.

Again secretary of Eastern Suburbs Association is BILL CHARR. Many are the parts Bill has played in soccer, and the advance of years does not prevent him from filling in as a full-back any time his all-age team needs an emergency player.

APIA are rumored to be keenly interested in Cumberland right winger, JOHN KEDDIE. The tag may be as high as \$5000.

At a conference of the ILLAWARRA District and Illawarra Junior Associations last week it was decided to recommend that every First and Second Division club should field an Under-18 team next season. The IDSA will deal and make a ruling on this suggestion at its meeting on November 27.

WALTER TAMANDL, just back from Austria, was pleasantly surprised with the standard of last Sunday's APIA v. Pan Hellenic Australia Cup semifinal. Tamandl said the match compared more than favorably with most of the First Division games he saw in Austria recently. Apart from Rapid, FK Austria, and a couple of other clubs, the standard of most Austrian teams had deteriorated since his last visit home three and a half years ago, Tamandl claims.

NORTH SYDNEY INTER, winners of this year's First Division Inter-Suburban amateur competition, propose to field in the local district competition a number of junior teams in the 1968 season. Boys under the age of 12 to 16 desiring to join, are invited to contact the president, Tony Mauceri at 92-2935 or the secretary, Fred Leitner, at 42-5836.

Croatia's Irish forward, BRIAN TYRELL, is back in England, having rejoined the West Midlands League club Dudley Town. He is expected to stay in England until May when he may once again fly back to Sydney.

MALCOLM HENDERSON, the Prague youngster who went to seek fame and fortune in Scottish soccer, has signed a professional form with First Division Kilmarnock. Young Henderson, whose father is a

prominent Eastern Suburbs and Prague junior official, is the regular left fullback of Kilmarnock's reserve team. He is also a full member of Killies' first team squad.

LES SCHAUMAN has a free clearance from his South African club, Powerline of Johannesburg. This season his team scored 130 goals in winning the Second Division — and Les bagged 39 of them becoming the League's top scorer.

FRANK AUFDERMAUER the former Prague team manager, returns from Scotland in a few weeks. Aufdermauer spent some time in Scotland for his firm, Sunbeam. While overseas he was talent-scouting for Prague and also saw young Malcolm

Hong Kong's biggest Chinese language daily newspaper, CHANG WU PAO, in a recent issue featured prominently the 75th birthday of "Soccer World" publisher and founding member, Marcel Nagy. The newspaper also published Mr. Nagy's photograph. S.W. Ma, the paper's sports editor, is a regular subscriber to "Soccer World", as is another prominent Hong Kong Chinese language sports writer, T.Y. Liu, of WEN WEI PAO.

Henderson play with Kilmarnock. Aufdermauer was very impressed with Henderson's swift improvement due to superior Scottish training methods where the emphasis is on fitness and discipline.

Adelaide HELLAS will play Melbourne Juventus on November 4 and Pan Hellenic on November 11. Both "friendly" games will be staged in Adelaide.

APIA's under-13 team won the Sydney Champion of Champions competition for the best under-13 team in the city area. Coach PETER AMEDOLIA played a big part in APIA's win. The managers were Billy Coles and Jackie Bills, both of whom are great soccer enthusiasts in the Balmain area.

Two top Sydney wingers are hankering for a TRANSFER. Both have representative records and neither is Australian-born. So keep guessing...

MELITA EAGLES' Annual General Meeting has been put back a fortnight. The meeting will now be held on Sunday, November 12.

Ticket No. 423 won first prize (a trip to Greece) in the giant Pan Hellenic RAFFLE. There was, however, no name on the butt and the lucky winner is requested to ring 34-8137 to claim his prize. Other prize-winners were: No. 63, A. Kazantzis (second

prize), No. 42750, J. Dounis (third prize), No. 25810, E. Fofas (fourth prize), No. 21679, J. Papageorgiou (fifth prize), No. 1642, Joan Doyle (sixth prize), No. 19361, K. Kalitiotou (seventh prize) and No. 12282, Belogiammis (eighth prize).

SOUTH SYDNEY-CROATIA won the Third Grade Challenge Cup. Last Sunday they beat Polonia-North Side 5-0 at Wentworth Park in a curtain-raiser to the Australia Cup semifinal.

ST. GEORGE-BUDAPEST Soccer Club directors will present each of the Australian players touring Asia with a small gift on Friday night when the team's farewell dinner is held at Saint's Soccer House at Mortdale. The "B" team to tour New Caledonia will be farewelled at the Western Suburbs Club at Five Dock.

ALAN HIGNETT's fiancée arrived from England last Saturday morning. The Pan Hellenic defender will soon get married and settle here permanently. His fiancée is the guest of club patron, Charles Valentine, until the wedding.

At a meeting last Friday night at the Bankstown Soccer Club Limited, the Metropolitan LADIES' Soccer Association was formed with Mr. Brough as president. Another meeting will be held within a fortnight with a view to organise a competition for the ladies' teams scattered throughout the Metropolitan area in 1968.

The LANE COVE Under-9 "Blue" team won the Under-9 Round Robin Premiership and Knockout Competitions which were held between the leading Northern Suburbs Clubs at the end of last season. These competitions were quite separate to those which APIA won in the combined Northern/Western Suburbs Associations last season.

Prague president, JOHN DOMABYL, is due back from Czechoslovakia on Saturday. He is expected to return with all arrangements for Slavia Prague's Australian tour completed.

NORTH BANKSTOWN held its presentation day picnic last Sunday at the Mauri Brothers and Thomson Park, near Liverpool. Most successful team this year was the under-9s "A" who won their competition undefeated. They also won the "Knock-Out" and the Metropolitan "Champion of Champions".

GRANVILLE will hold their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, October 31.

The PAN HELLENIC junior club will hold its presentation function in the form of a picnic at No. 3 Pavilion, Nielsen Park, on Sunday, November 5. Supporters and friends of the club are cordially invited to bring their kiddies. A splendid day's entertainment is assured for all.

Joe Venglos and Andy Sagi will conduct Prague's SUMMER COACHING CLINIC for boys between the ages of 14 and 17 from November 6 until December 6. Lads interested in signing up for the course should write to Prague secretary, George Warner, 212 New South Head Road, Edgecliff, or ring 32-5150.

CONNELL HITS BACK

SA senior board member, Jim Connell, who is co-manager of the Australian team to tour Asia, commented last Saturday that "Soccer World" editor Paul Dean was perfectly correct when he wrote last week that Connell has had no previous experience of Asian conditions.

Connell, however, pointed out that he has had talks with Julius Re in an effort to gain knowledge of Asian conditions in the light of what Re discovered during the Merdeka Tournament.

The SA official said he can't follow our editor's reasoning that Bayutti, Brusasco and Re have not been considered for tour appointments.

Connell pointed out that Brusasco was a member of the national team sub-committee which recommended the appointment of the tour officials and that Re was a member of the executive which approved the appointments.

"And of course," added Connell, "we all know that Jim Bayutti has resigned".

(I sincerely hope that Jim Connell's consultations will be enough to brace the Australian team for the weird conditions which will prevail in Saigon. — Paul Dean.)

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Please ring 54-3518 between 7 and 10 p.m.

When last December I returned from the 1966 Asian Games in Bangkok, I wrote confidently in the first issue of this year's SOCCER WORLD that a well prepared Australian team would have come close to winning the soccer tournament in the Thai capital.

I still stand by this opinion, but since the Australian team which will represent us in the Saigon tournament is neither our strongest, nor will it have been adequately prepared, I don't hold out much hope for an Australian victory.

With the exception of Burma, Iran, Hong Kong and the Philippines, every country which participated in the Asian Games last December has been invited to Saigon.

The non-inclusion of Burma, Iran, Israel, North Korea and Communist China, however, robs the tournament of much of its significance as Japan will be the only one of Asia's "Big Five" present in Vietnam.

Under those circumstances one can only deplore again that Australia will not be represented by its strongest team.

This would have been our big chance to win our first major international laurels, and the Australian team that played against Scotland, with a few minor changes, could well have done just that.

The team we are taking on tour, however, only stands a fair chance of reaching the semifinals, but even that is no foregone conclusion.

The teams will be split into two round-robin groups, with the first two in each group qualifying for the semifinals.

As I have seen nine of the 11 nations invited to compete in Saigon, I feel I can speak with some authority about what Australia will be up against next month.

I trust the following background information and hints on the style and tactics of Australia's probable opponents will be of some use to the Australian tourists.

They certainly need all the "dope" they can get before undertaking their perilous mission!

Japan

The Japanese must start favorites in the Saigon Tournament if they take part.

Three weeks ago they clinched their berth for the Olympic finals in Mexico for which they prepared by sending their team to South America for five weeks in August-September this year.

Although they did not win the Asian Games, I was very impressed with them in Bangkok.

Of all the Asian teams, North Korea again excepted, they play the most "European" game.

Their players are much taller than most Asians, they are sound tactically, can shoot and tackle just as willingly as the Australians.

In Bangkok they looked about the same strength as

Some Asians could surprise our team

— By LOU GAUTIER —

the best Australian team we could field then.

I am certain now that in Saigon Japan will have a stronger team than Australia and can't see us beating them if we meet.

Even our strongest team would have found the going very tough against a team that's played together since reaching the quarterfinals of the 1964 Olympic Tournament.

Thailand

Thailand flattered only to deceive at the Asian Games.

After a most impressive start when they beat South Korea and drew with Burma, they fell to pieces and were trounced by Singapore and Japan.

The Thais, like most Asian teams, detest to be hustled and a few hard tackles will throw them off their stride.

Their forwards like to carry the ball, walk it into the net, but a solid Australian defence should be able to contain them quite easily if they dominate the midfield.

As in all games against Asian opponents possession of the midfield will be vital because most Asian sides operate from fast breakaways started well in their own half.

If Australia can control the middle of the field, the frail Thai forwards shouldn't see much of the ball.

South Korea

After a shock setback at the Asian Games last December, South Korea are on the way up again.

They proved this by winning the Merdeka this year jointly with Burma and finishing level with Japan in an Olympic qualifying round-robin in Tokyo three weeks ago.

I got a false impression of them in Bangkok where they fielded a young, experimental team at the Asian games.

These players must either have matured by now, or the selectors reverted to choosing some of the established stars, who in previous years made South Korea one of Asia's best teams, though nowhere near the North Korean class.

The young Koreans in action in Bangkok were full of fight.

They fought for every ball, and were not adverse to tough play when their goal was in danger.

A defensive team, they played a very tight game, retreating en bloc into their area whenever their opponents mounted an attack.

Against them if it's the same team that played in Thailand, the Australians will have to attack frequently from the wings, lob high crosses and hope that our forwards' superior height throws them off balance.

Singapore

Despite their shock fourth place at the Asian Games this is one team even this inexperienced Australian side should beat convincingly.

Western Australia's 5-3 victory over them at the Merdeka illustrates their limited possibilities.

The Singapore XI is a mixture of Chinese, Malays and Indians, not too happy a combination.

In Bangkok they were one of the smallest teams, but got through to the semis, to everyone's amazement, because in their vital match against South Vietnam their forwards rattled in five goals from breakaways mounted at great speed.

Should Australia meet Singapore, nothing less than a three to four-goal Aussie victory would be a satisfactory result, because Singapore have little else to offer but speed.

Malaysia

After five years in the doldrums, Malaysia have shown slight signs of improvement in the last 12 months.

The kingpins of non-Communist Asia between 1957 and 1960, Malaysia is one team the Australians know well, having beaten them 1-0 and 3-0 at Ipoh in 1965.

The Malaysians I saw both at Ipoh and Bangkok are a soft lot.

They rarely tackle and shun body contact.

They have a few talented ball players, but are too individualistic to be effective against a hard-tackling team.

Even an average Australian team should be able to account for Malaysia, who could only beat Western Australia, at home, 3-2 in August.

Hong Kong

The young Hong Kong team covered itself with glory by winning the Eastern section of the Asian Regional Cup in Hong Kong five months ago.

They did not participate at the Asian Games, but what I saw of them on the 1965 tour is enough to indicate they will be a tough proposition.

Their clever ball players, some of whom played in Australia with Sing Tao last year, and tight cover defence, will present our team with many headaches.

In Hong Kong in 1965 although Australia played all over them, our forwards were unable to break through one of the best organised defences they came up against on the tour.

Against Hong Kong, coach Vlasits must pick his strongest forwards, his most direct attackers as we can't afford "fiddlers" in this match.

Only fast, forceful play will enable Australia to get the better of these clever ball-playing Chinese who move like lightning and who can also be very tough and aggressive if they have to.

Nationalist China

Nationalist China, once a major force in Asian soccer, are on the skids.

They rely heavily on Hong Kong players for their national team, but most of these have reached the veteran stage.

Their international results in the past two years have been mediocre and early this month they only finished fifth out of the six teams competing in the Asian Olympic

qualifying round-robin in Japan.

Most of their players in Saigon will be the same ones who lost 1-3 to Australia in Hong Kong two years ago.

That day Australia played one of its best international matches ever when Blue scored all three goals.

Nationalist China will have a big edge over Australia in experience as they've used the same players in dozens of internationals.

The Australian team that played Scotland would have beaten them comfortably, but

a question mark must hang over the side which will represent us in Saigon.

This team may be in for an unpleasant surprise against the tricky, experienced, match-hardened campaigners from Formosa.

Philippines

The Philippines' international experience is very limited.

They rarely take part in Asian competitions, but did participate in the Asian Olympic qualifying round-robin in Japan where they finished

last without winning a match. I've never seen them play, but judging on their results they should pose no threat to Australia.

As for New Zealand, the eleventh country in the Saigon tournament, they haven't played Australia since 1954.

Recent visits by their club teams to Sydney, however, seem to indicate they should be well within Australia's capabilities should we meet at long last — 4,000 miles from home!

FOOTNOTE: As we went to press it was officially announced that Japan, South Korea, Nationalist China and Hong Kong had pulled out of the Saigon Tournament, thus outdating the above story. In view of these withdrawals, Australia now stands an excellent chance of reaching the semifinals and even winning the Tournament.

■ SECOND DIV. REVIEW

MARCONI POISED FOR BIG THINGS

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

After a rather unimpressive beginning, Marconi Southern District Soccer Club produced its best football late in the season to stage a conquer-all finishing run which nearly snatched a place in the semifinals.

However, the side hit its peak form just a little too late and despite the burst of good wins including the topping of Western Suburbs, it found itself two points short of fourth place but still finished a successful seventh on the competition ladder.

Considering that this is the first year of the club's return from the wilderness, the 1967 season was a great accomplishment for Marconi that could have been bettered if the players had settled down earlier.

Marconi started from a humble beginning in 1959 when as a junior team it entered the Inter-District competition where it played until 1963.

In that same year, the side was promoted to the Federation Amateur Division and under the coaching of A. Del Caro, Marconi won the competition which resulted in promotion to Second Division in 1965.

But the side was not yet ready for Second Division status and its stay in the higher sphere was shortlived as after one uneventful season, it was relegated again to the amateur ranks.

The experience gained during this disastrous season was put to good use and as despondency was never allowed to creep into the administration, reorganisation and planning for the future was started immediately.

During the brief stay in the amateur division, officials had plenty of time to prepare the side for top company and made sure that the 1965 debacle did not repeat itself.

Systematically and carefully eliminating past mistakes, Marconi's fortunes were quickly rehabilitated and after only one season it won the amateur division competition with a clear five-point lead, thus ensuring an instant return to Second Division.

By this time, the club had already secured the coaching services of Joe Vasvari who worked very hard to coach and keep fit the side throughout the season and on occasions played with the team for inspiration.

The side also signed on some very good ball play-

ers such as centre-half Milani, fullbacks Napta and Scotti and forwards Seni and Gastone Giacometti.

But Marconi's successful achievements during 1967 can be chiefly attributed to the strong defence combination capably led by centre-half Milani who, on several instances proved to be the stumbling block to much more experienced opponents.

Milani was well assisted by half-backs Shultz and Zorato and, together with Napta and Scotti with the safe and confident Langelar between the posts, formed a solid combination that saved them from being crushed by the big guns of the strong and more experienced sides.

JUNIOR TALENT

But like many other Sydney clubs, Marconi failed badly in the forwards and the 34-28 goal average speaks for itself.

It lacked the accurate and sharp-shooting abilities of classy forwards and although this department improved slightly towards the end, extensive improvement is still needed if the club's ambitions to play in First Division in the near future are to be realised.

The side's best performers in the front-line were Giacometti, Okon and Seni who were more effective when playing on their own home ground.

To further the interests of the game and the club within the Southern Districts, Marconi officials are very proud in sponsoring and encouraging three

junior teams namely under 11's, 14's, and 15's.

The under-11 side won the 1967 Metropolitan Competition and came only second in the State Championship but still won the Champion of Champions Trophy.

The club have great hopes in these juniors and with constant coaching, some of them may be making first grade debuts in the near future.

During the off-season, the Marconi committee is not idle and already new dressing sheds have been built at the Marconi Oval.

The playing area is also earmarked for improvements and by the beginning of the 1968 season, the whole ground will have been returfed and in first class condition.

This is assured as the club has built a dam to water the new surface and any dry weather we might experience until then would not affect the ground.

Club officials are reluctant to divulge plans for next season, but all the key players of last season will be retained and Joe Vasvari will again coach the side in 1968.

Although the licensed Marconi Social Club gives valued moral support to the Soccer Club, the financial resources of Marconi are entirely due to the efforts of the committee and members who try very hard to raise the necessary capital.

And in this respect, the president and committee want to extend their thanks to all those who assisted financially or otherwise during the season.

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A U S T R A L I A C U P

MELBOURNE-HSC MAY BE HARD PRESSED TO STOP APIA MACHINE

Lou Gautier, in Sydney, and Bob Low, in Melbourne, have come to the same conclusions in their previews of Sunday's APIA v. Melbourne-HSC Australia Cup final Olympic Park.

Both tip APIA to win their second consecutive Australia Cup at the expense of the Victorian State League champions.

This is their previews, from both the Sydney and Melbourne angles.

Defeat "impossible"

From a Sydney angle, and with all due respect to Melbourne-HSC, the Victorian State League champions, it's impossible to see APIA losing on Sunday.

With the return of Van Blerk and Hughes, APIA are in the lucky predicament of having too many players to choose from.

Coach Mazzina's biggest headache may not be how to beat Melbourne, but whom to drop for APIA's defence of their national trophy.

Despite the splendid displays of make-shift halves Blue and Kerklaan, both former Victorians, in their recent Australia Cup outings, room must be found for Pat Hughes, Australia's skipper against Scotland earlier this year.

Hughes' return and the inclusion of the ruthlessly tough Van Blerk may present Melbourne's lightweight forwards with a king-size problem they may be unable to solve successfully.

APIA, however, will pin most of their hopes for a resounding victory on their forwards, particularly Giacometti and Watkiss.

Melbourne fans had a taste of Watkiss' brilliance when APIA demolished Juventus at St. Kilda last month.

Watkiss will be the man Melbourne's defence will have to mark closely, especially in the goalmouth

area where APIA's wingers will send high balls across for the Australian international to head home.

APIA, however, are anything but a two-man forward line.

McKinnon and Campbell, the two young Australian-born wingers, can also be match-winners on their day, and Archie Blue, playing the best football of his career since his shock omission from the Australian team, needs no introduction to Victorian fans.

Not having seen Melbourne this season, I'm not too qualified to pass judgment on them.

One thing is certain, however.

The Victorian State League champions will have to be a much improved side on the team which lost meekly 3-0 to APIA in last year's Sydney semi-final to stand a chance.

— Lou Gautier

Let it rain . . .

Unless Melbourne strike it rich in that rain falls before next Sunday and makes the Olympic Park a testing ground for players where skill is considered secondary to conditions, top Sydney side APIA should carry off the Australia Cup for the second year in succession.

For unless one is a dreamer, the form shown by Melbourne in winning through to the final is well short of what will be required to beat APIA.

Melbourne are a team of triers and on their day, providing they are allowed to do so, they can turn on a good brand of soccer.

But their defence, is shaky and don't be kidded by the fact that they have

conceded only one goal in their last two games against Croatia and Juventus.

Take centre-half Scott, wing half Connelly and inside forward Abonyi out of their side, and they are mediocre.

We know the same isn't true of APIA.

For with three players of the calibre of Van Blerk, Hughes and Campana out of their line-up, they have still proved the best in Sydney.

Small chance

And much as I hate to admit it, they should prove for the second year running — the best in Australia.

However, Melbourne are in with a chance.

And more so as they are playing at Olympic Park which is familiar to them.

The Victorian side's best chance of success lies in their ability to get on the attack, stay there and try and tee up every possible scoring chance for Frank Stoffels and Attila Abonyi.

This pair present the biggest threat to the APIA defence and even without receiving adequate support, they can be dangerous.

From an attacking point of view the real defender of the Melbourne defence is centre half Scott.

Pass Scott and you are halfway towards success.

I don't fancy that APIA will have a walkover by any means but with more all-round ability, experience, fewer weaknesses and a reputation as the best club side in Australia should lift the 1967 Australia Cup for them.

— Bob Low

Juve. proved forward-shy

From BOB LOW in Melbourne

In this all-Melbourne semi-final of the Australia Cup, Juventus hammered Melbourne for the first 25 minutes without any real signs of finishing.

The State League champions came more and more into the game at the half-way stage of the first half and by the time the whistle went, nothing separated the teams neither of whom had scored or shown any great advantage in play.

Juventus, with chief striker Bell on the injured list and Malloy, Di Marchi and Pignatelli on the touchline, must have wondered if they had not put out the wrong forward formation as Torque, Luckhurst and Norman failed miserably.

Never brilliant

And as Sonsini was replaced after he collided with Scott and required five stitches in his head early in the first half, they could not alter their outfield arrangement.

Melbourne, without ever looking brilliant, were in fact very shaky in defence in the first half and only Scott at centre-half stood

between them and a beating.

On the change-over, Melbourne got the breaks and Stoffels from a pass by Myers sent them into the final against APIA with a goal from a hard drive after 62 minutes.

Abonyi's clincher

With Juventus disoriented, especially in attack where they solely relied on the Melbourne defence to make a mistake, their hope of an equaliser never came.

And three minutes from full-time, Attila Abonyi, one of the best prospects in Australian soccer, sealed the game when he scored with a full-blooded drive after magnificent wing play by McCann.

It was all over bar the shouting and the Juventus players were getting ready to congratulate their opponents before the final whistle.

Outstanding player afield was Alistair Scott, the Melbourne centre-half, and his best colleagues were fellow Scots Frank McCann, Bob Connelly and Ian Shanks.

Juventus were well served by Dieter Voigt, George Scott and Dario Epifano.

Melbourne: Surma, Fowler, Gregal, Shanks, Scott, Connelly, McCann, Abonyi, Stoffels, Grenouille (Kurta) Myers.

Juventus: Voigt, Sonsini (Milton), Gentry, Della, Rocca, Scott, Corti, Torque, Luckhurst, Norman, Millar, Epifano.

Referee: Harold Parsons (NSW).

Crowd: 6,021.

HELLENIC HAD NO AUST. CUP LUCK

— By ALAN SPEERS —

It is a measure of APIA's resilience and confidence in their own ability that they can emerge triumphant from situations which would cause lesser teams to crumble.

On Sunday, in their Australia Cup semi-final against Pan Hellenic, they demonstrated this quality yet again.

Stretched at times to the point of desperation, APIA scraped through 2-1, after extra time, thus qualifying to meet Melbourne-HSC in this week's final at Olympic Park.

Though the standard of play never reached the heights of that memorable premiership Grand Final, the game was just as absorbing, if only because of the closeness of the scores.

Pan Hellenic, playing with the wind at their back, began like a house on fire and their forwards, for the first 45 minutes, were irresistible.

APIA's defence, not tested in earlier cup rounds, was at sixes and sevens as they tried desperately to stave off the non-stop barrage.

Ironically, in view of Pan Hellenic's unquestionable superiority in this period, Smith's goal, in the 18th minute, looked a little fortunate.

It came about from a corner kick from Blitz which touched Smith's head on its curling flight into the net.

Disputed goal

A good goal, but APIA's players and supporters felt that there should never have been a corner awarded, holding that Omeros' charge on Taylor was a blatant foul.

Referee Maitland, who had an excellent game, thought otherwise.

Whatever the merits of the referee's decision, however, there is no doubt that the first half was Pan Hellenic's.

With just a little luck, they might have notched one or two more goals.

Time and again they were thwarted by the agility of Taylor, whose display in the APIA goal gave the lie to his fumbling Grand Final performance against St. George-Budapest.

Through all this, however, APIA maintained a measure of confidence and, two minutes after half-time, they struck back through Rivero.

The Argentinian, slow and cumbersome for most of the match, swept the ball past Maglis, unsighted by a wall of players close to his goal.

Unlikely "hero"

Neither team could score again before fulltime, due to some excellent work by Taylor and the bearded Maglis, who has matured noticeably since his sojourn in the reserves.

It looked, in fact, as if the match would be ultimately decided on the toss of a coin.

As so often happens, however, a most unlikely "hero" appeared, in the shape of APIA's Beetle-haired young winger, Campbell.

Out of form in recent weeks, Campbell, a minute or two earlier, had missed an easy chance about 10 yards from the Pan Hellenic goal, but he more than made amends with a "dream" shot from well outside the penalty area.

His right-footed drive whistled into the back of the net before Maglis had time to react.

APIA: Taylor; Nuttall, Ackersley; Blue, Bottalico, Kerklaan; McKinnon, Rivero, Watkiss, Giacometti, Campbell.

Pan Hellenic: Maglis; Johnston, Hignett; Westwater, Mallard, Hanson; Blitz, Kary-

annis, Smith, McCulloch, Omeros.

Scorers: Smith 18 min., for Pan Hellenic; Rivero 47 min., Campbell 105 min., for APIA.

Referee: D. Maitland (Vic).

Crowd: 8,249.

PROBABLE LINE-UPS

APIA v. Melbourne-HSC

TAYLOR	1	SURMA
NUTTALL	2	FOWLER
ACKERLEY	3	GREGAL
HUGHES	4	SHANKS
VAN BLERK	5	SCOTT
BOTTALICO	6	CONNELLY
McKINNON	7	McCANN
BLUE	8	ABONYI
WATKISS	9	STOFFELS
GIACOMETTI	10	KURTA
CAMPBELL	11	MYERS

Reserves: KERKLAAN, RIVERO for APIA; GRENUILLE, GERRAD for Melbourne-HSC.

Referee: V. DOBINSON (Qld).



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THIS IS THE HUNGARIA CREW

These are the players of Melbourne-HSC who won the State championship and will now play in the Australia Cup final:

Henri Surma: goalkeeper, who is Polish-born and product of the Melbourne Juniors. Included in the Australian Under-23 team.

Tommy Gerrad: goalkeeper in his first season from Scotland. Played with Port Glasgow.

Tommy Fowler: right back, English non-league club, also Scottish who played with Clacton.

Tony Gregal: left back and another Scot who played with St. Mirren and Montrose.

Ian Shanks: right half who was born in Scotland but played all his soccer with Melbourne.

Alistair Scott: centre-half with professional experience in Scotland with Forfar Athletic.

Bob Connelly: wing half or inside forward, from Dundee, who played with St. Johnstone.

Peter Kurta: right winger from Hungary and product of the Melbourne Juniors.

Attila Abonyi: inside forward also from Hungary who also stepped up via the Melbourne Juniors. Included in the Australian team to tour Asia.

Frank Stoffels: centre forward from Holland. Played with Wilhelmina and Box Hill.

Gerard Grenouille: inside forward from Mauritius who is of French descent.

Colin Myers: left winger from England where he played with Gravesend.

Frank McCann: winger who came from Glasgow junior side, Bridgeton Waverley.

Coach: Bill Walsh.

• FIRST DIVISION FLASHBACK

NO FORWARD GEAR GOT HAKOAH INTO TROUBLE

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Hakoah, the 1965 Australia Cup winners and 1966 Sydney champions, only have the ill-fated "Consolation" Cup to show for a disappointing season.

It was in a way poetic justice that only inferior goal-average robbed them of a chance to compete in the final play-offs and the Australia Cup.

Hakoah finished level with Pan Hellenic at the end of the 22 premiership rounds, but were relegated to fifth place on goal-average.

It wasn't the 1-1 draw with Yugal in the last round that ruined their chances, but the apathy of their forwards, Baartz expected, throughout the competition.

Better forwards would have enabled Hakoah to clinch a semifinal berth well before that last fateful match.

And one cannot help but feel that Hakoah contributed largely to their own downfall.

How they could have done with Ninaus and Hood, who were foolishly sold to Canterbury just when Hakoah had a crying need for players capable of converting the innumerable opportunities that came their forwards' way match after match.

NO COHESION

Hakoah's strength in 1965 and 1966 stemmed from the exemplary understanding their players had achieved from playing together in an almost unchanged team for two seasons.

This cohesion, especially in attack, went overboard in 1967 when the management burnt its fingers with unsuccessful interstate transfers.

Hakoah's defence was practically unchanged, and as a result "carried" the team for the whole season, playing almost as effectively as in the previous two seasons.

I say almost, because one of their key defenders who had such a wonderful 1966 season, Danny Walsh, was not quite the same player this year.

BAARTZ'S IMPACT

Injuries to Hillsdon and Edwards, and the surprise exclusion of goalie Peter Fuzes, straight after being considered good enough to play for Australia against Scotland, also diminished the effectiveness of a defence which had no equal in Australia in 1965 and 1966.

Hakoah's defenders, however, were world beaters compared to their forwards. Every forward, that is, apart from Ray Baartz.

This is one buy Hakoah won't ever regret.

The Newcastle youngster made a tremendous impact both locally and nationally in his first year of Sydney soccer.

Baartz was not only the revelation of the season, but he was Australia's best forward against Scotland, and won himself a permanent place in the Australian forward line for many years to come.

Rugged, aggressive and a deadly shot, he is the ideal spearhead so many clubs lack.

Just as well Hakoah had his services this year, otherwise their already woeful tally of goals would have been further reduced.

Most of Baartz's 13 goals meant the difference between victory and a draw or defeat for Hakoah.

Without him to net so many crucial goals, with little or no help from his co-forwards, Hakoah would certainly have finished much lower on the table.

Yaager, another expensive "buy," was not nearly as impressive.

Actually he was a big disappointment and only showed some signs of class in the few games he played at halfback.

In those games he showed glimpses of potential which may allow him to show up more prominently next year.

Edmunds and Jones, the two former Latrobe players, were in and out of the team, and didn't appear to have what it takes to do so well in Sydney.

Doug Holden isn't getting any younger and his game suffered as a consequence; but he was still classes above the other forwards, though a distant second to Baartz.

Fekete started the season in whirlwind fashion, was Hakoah's best forward in

the Ampol Cup, but faded early in the competition.

Harding was hard-working as always, but few goals came his way this year, reducing his usefulness to the team.

Hakoah's best player in defence was again stopper Marnoch, a tower of strength who also proved his worth against the Scots and Manchester United.

Fuel was added to Hakoah's fire when the club and coach Tiko Jelisevic parted ways suddenly towards the end of the competition.

This further disrupted the team and put paid to their hopes in the last rounds.

Hakoah have the task ahead in 1968.

They have the means to rebuild a team worthy of its recent predecessors, but it might take more than just spending big money on new players.

The club cannot afford to fall back into its infuriating pre-1965-66 ways of continuous outside interference into selection, tactics and team preparation.

SAIGON: TOUGH PLACE BY ANY STANDARD

— By JOHN HOLLAND —

who recently spent a year in Vietnam

Saigon 1967 is likely to be the strangest city any Australian soccer player may ever visit.

Crammed full with military personnel and almost completely devoid of the ordinary pleasures a tourist is after, Saigon is a tough place by any standard.

During their stay there the Australian players will experience many hardships which could greatly affect their performances.

In fact, it would be most surprising if they proved immune to these totally strange and often unpleasant outside factors.

Lack of comfort may be handicap number one.

Saigon has only three first class hotels available to the public and these are usually well filled with either visiting military brass or with international businessmen.

While the city has many other hotels as well, most of these are leased permanently by the American and Korean Governments as billets for their thousands of servicemen stationed in Saigon.

Australia's 200-strong headquarters contingent is also billeted in some of these hotels.

On most nights, players may stay awake by the clearly audible sounds of helicopter droning, constantly circling Saigon.

These "choppers" also light up the sky with successions of flares as a deterrent to terrorists and infiltrators.

To the uninitiated — and our players come into that peaceful category — the constant sound of mortar bombs and artillery fire can become most nerve-wrecking, lying on a strange bed in sticky, humid conditions.

Then an occasional burst of small-arms fire will divert their thoughts as in a nearby street MPs round up draft dodgers and curfew violators.

If all these still leave somebody unperturbed, the climate will probably get him.

Much has been written about the Southeast Asian climate and its subsequent effect on the body and most of this applies to Vietnam.

Saigon's daytime temperature in November ranges from 90 to 104 deg. although there may be brief respites from this strength-sapping heat by way of late afternoon monsoonal downpours.

In case you pin your hopes on cool evenings, forget it: the temperature rarely dips below 78 deg. at night and often stays up close to 90 degrees.

The alarming lack of foresight in failing to allow for a longer acclimatisation period for the team is most disappointing and I am sure will once again reflect in our players' performances.

Dehydration — a real hazard in the steamy, humid Saigon area — cannot be arrested by salt tablets alone and, together with the ever present "Asian tummy" it looms as the greatest threat to the Australian team's fitness.

Cramp, vertigo, chaffing, gastric upsets and ophthalmic conditions (eye infections etc.) will be the big problem and the team medico, Dr. Brian Corrigan, is sure to have his fair share of worries as the tour progresses.

Next week read Martin Royal's first on-the-spot report from Saigon.

Smalltalk

LAST Friday the Federation referees and the Association referees got together for a meeting at the St. George-Budapest Club to iron out their differences and find a way of uniting. Hardly did the meeting get under way when the Association members walked out in a huff. The cause of this irreparable split is — color. Federation referees wear all-black, the Association referees all-white. Both of course, stick to their garb until the other fellow turns black and blue.

We told you this just in case you keep wondering why soccer in this city is so very full of schisms.

No doubt the solution is simple: call in Mrs. Marcel Dekyvere, Sydney socialite and experienced organiser of the charity-oriented Black-and-White balls.

THOSE soccer attendances . . . We beg to disagree with the "Doubting Thomases" who have queried recent Australia Cup crowds at Wentworth Park.

Figures released by the Australian and NSW Federations for the quarterfinal double-header and last Sunday's semifinal were strictly correct and double-checked as always by the Wentworth Park trustees.

If official Federation attendances now look ridiculously small, the fault lies with those clubs, who in the past when the Federation was fighting for its life, grossly boosted their attendances.

In the first six years of the Federation it was not uncommon for clubs, especially at Wentworth Park, to add some 4,000 to 5,000 spectators to the actual paid attendance.

It's no secret that the crowd at a certain APFA v. Prague competition match in 1960, held in pouring rain at Wentworth Park, was given as "a record 13,000," when the actual attendance, including free passes, children and pensioners, was less than 8,000.

MELBOURNE referee D. Maitland wrote a nice thank-you to St. George-Budapest club who had lavishly entertained him after the recent Australia Cup tie against Pan Hellenic. No, you're wrong: the Saints actually lost 2-1 and during the match Maitland disallowed two of their vital goals, yet he got the VIP treatment at the Mortdale Soccer House which induced him to write such a nice letter. I'm sure some club supporters would have been content with a shorter and less admiring note from Maitland — in exchange for at least one of those disallowed goals . . .

"DISTRICT clubs have to be near the top and keep winning in order to have a following," said John Thomson last week at a Council meeting.

Kind of an invitation, I guess, for the "other" clubs to handicap themselves to help their brethren . . .

DON'T think for a moment that Les Schauman will automatically rejoin his old love, St. George-Budapest. Although in actual possession of a free clearance from his Johannesburg club, Pinnerlines, Les is determined to accept the highest offer he can get in Australia. The 29-year-old Schauman was a great success in South Africa where he had spent three years. In 1967 he helped his club to a comfortable championship in the Second Division, scoring 39 of their impressive 130 goals.

TALKING of perks: wouldn't it be a splendid and noble idea if the ASF established a sort of "travelling fellowship" for coaches? Through the courtesy of the various airlines they are dealing with, the ASF usually have a dozen or so free around-the-world tickets for themselves. These, it seems, are handed out within that clique, enabling the executives to travel in pairs like some CHAOS agents.

Surely one ticket a year could be spared and given to a coach to go and study for a few weeks the latest trends somewhere in Europe. If he only attends six training sessions and watches three or four matches, talks to trainers, and officials, he must come back a much wiser man from which our game can directly benefit.

Or can't the ASF spare even one ticket for such purposes?

— MIKE RENWICK



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ROUND THE WORLD

Journalists' Brazilian XI

Many new talents are emerging in Brazil, and some of the established stars appear to be on the way out. A fortnight ago Rio and Sao Paulo's soccer writers got together to "select" the strongest national team Brazil could field at the moment. Their deliberations produced the following XI: Picasso; Carlos Alberto, Jurandir, Dias, Sadi; Piazza, Dirceu Lopes, Rivelino; Paulo Borges, Pele, Tostao.

Scots one up

Billy McNeill, Celtic's centre-half and captain, headed a priceless 69th minute goal to give the European champions a 1-0 victory over Racing Club of Argentina in the first leg of the World Clubs Soccer Championship last week.

Celtic battered away at the Racing defence throughout the match, but were kept out until McNeill soared over the Argentinian defenders to head in a corner from John Hughes.

The match never rose to a high level as the tough Racing defenders mercilessly chopped down the Celtic forwards.

Spanish referee Juan Gardeazabal often had to intervene to separate angry players.

The second leg will be played in Buenos Aires on November 1.

Goal average does not count and if Racing win the second leg, a play-off match will be held in Montevideo on November 4.

Some "top ten" ratings

Three European newspapers published their own version of Europe's "top 10" clubs in 1966-67 last week. The Austrian VOLKSTIMME selected, in order, Celtic, Inter Milan, Vasas, Bayern Munchen, Real Madrid, Benfica, Rapid Vienna, Dukla Prague, CSKA Sofia, Manchester United. The 10 best clubs, according to Rumania's SPORTUL POPULAS, are: Celtic, Inter Milan, Dukla Prague, Real Madrid, Ajax Amsterdam, Benfica, Manchester United, Bayern Munchen, Ferencvaros, Dinamo Zagreb. NARODEN SPORT (Bulgaria) settled on Celtic, Manchester United, Bayern Munchen, Inter Milan, Benfica, Dinamo Kiev, CSKA Sofia, Vasas, Ajax Amsterdam and Rangers Glasgow.

FIFA fights back

FIFA have hired a solicitor to fight the United States "breakaway" National Professional Soccer League's \$US18 million law suit. The Yank rebels are suing FIFA, the United States Soccer Association and its affiliated soccer league for breaking the United States' anti-trust laws by recognising the existence of only one soccer body in America.

Fair Cities Cup

The second round draw for the Fair Cities Cup, made in Zurich last week, is:

Bordeaux (France) v. Atletico Bilbao (Spain). Sporting (Portugal) v. Fiorentina (Italy). Dundee (Scotland) v. FC Liege (Belgium). Liverpool v. Munchen 1860 (W. Germany). Vojvodina (Yug.) v. Leipzig (East Germany). Bologna (Italy) v. Dinamo Zagreb (Yug.). Rangers v. FC Koln (W. Germany). Atletico Madrid (Spain) v. Goztepe Izmir Turkey.

Partizan (Yugoslavia) v. Leeds (England). Nottingham (England) v. FC Zurich (Switz.). Napoli (Italy) v. Hibernians (Scotland). Zaragoza (Spain) v. Ferencvaros (Hungary).

Pele's regal contract

Pele ended all speculations about an eventual transfer to Italy by signing a new, three-year contract with Santos. Under the terms of the contract, the Brazilian wizard will earn a monthly salary of \$2,000, plus countless bonuses and special match fees for overseas appearances which will swell his annual income to an estimated all-time record earnings of \$35,000. In Italy he could probably earn that in four months . . .

Luigi Meroni, Torino's Italian international right winger, was killed last week when his car ran off the road when he was driving back from a competition match in Genoa against Sampdoria. The 25-year-old Meroni was nicknamed "Beatie" for his haircut, beard and "way out" clothes. Born in Como on February 24, 1942, Meroni started his career at Genoa and transferred to Torino in 1964. Two months ago, Torino rejected a \$600,000 offer to transfer him to local rivals, Juventus.

● Rapid Vienna are negotiating with another Danish forward. He is 26-year-old international inside-left, Finn Laudrup, a former team-mate of Rapid's other Dane, the high-scoring centre-forward, Boern Bjerregard.

● Financial difficulties may prevent Seoul, South Korea, from staging the 1970 Asian Games. An alternative venue may be Teheran, Iran.

● Liverpool's new \$250,000 centre-forward, Tony Hateley, won't play for three weeks. His right cheekbone was broken in the match against Leicester a fortnight ago.

● North Korea cancelled a three-match tour of Burma, scheduled for early next month, following the grave anti-Chinese agitation in Rangoon. North Korea haven't played a full international since the GANEFO Games Final in Phnom-Penh on November 29 last year when they beat Communist China 2-1.

● The greatest French soccer player of all time, Raymond Kopa, was 36 years old last week. Kopa hasn't played this season following a disagreement with his club, Reims. The 1958 "European Player of the Year" is busy managing his many business interests (soft drinks, football equipment) and has no intention of ever playing again as a professional.

● Forty-eight countries, including Australia, have sent in their nominations for the 1970 World Cup to FIFA headquarters in Zurich. The World Cup sub-committee will meet on January 9-10 to draw up the elimination groups.

● Uruguayan Esteban Marino will referee the return Celtic-Racing Buenos Aires match in Argentina next month.

● Herbert Schoen — no relation to Helmut, the West German boss — is likely to be the new East German manager.

● In his playing days Di Stefano was regarded as tough and unfriendly; now his players at Elche idolise him — as their coach.

● Soccer is making tremendous inroads in Japan: the recent Olympic qualifying international against South Korea in Tokyo attracted 70,000 spectators.

● AS Roma recently had a record 90,000 home gate against Napoli.

● Noted London columnist Brian Glanville lists Pele, Eusebio and Farkas as the world's three most consistent scorers.

● Alex Willoughby, the talented young Rangers forward is tired of being a reserve and is thinking of a transfer.

● A Madrid suburb has streets named after their two famous clubs, Real and Atletico.

● The France v. Luxemburg European Championship match will be played on December 23, probably at Lille. The match will only have academical interest, however, if France manage to draw with Belgium at Nantes this Saturday.

● Fullback Wilson was the only one from the England team, which won the 1966 World Cup final who was not included in the England side against Wales at Cardiff last Saturday. His place was taken by Blackburn's Newton.

● Belgium beat Morocco 3-0 in an International Military Championship qualifying round match at Antwerp last week to reach the final play-offs next year.

● Nobby Stiles has reached the pinnacle of fame. His life-size effigy was unveiled last week at Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London.

● Former Austrian international, Aurednik, who played in France for five seasons, is Austria's new national team technical advisor.

● Since Tommy Docherty's demise, Chelsea players no longer train twice a day. Chelsea's temporary manager, Stewart, considers that a daily two-and-a-half hour stint is enough.

● Barcelona invited Arsenal for the testimonial match for their former Hungarian international ace, Kocsis, next week.

● Queen's Park Rangers are spending \$350,000 on a new 6,000 spectator capacity stand at their London home ground.

● More than 4,000 Dutch supporters travelled to Madrid last week for the European Cup match between Ajax Amsterdam and Real Madrid. The encouragement of their fans lifted the Dutchmen to great heights, forcing Real Madrid to extra-time before winning 1-2.

● Cyprus' top club, Olympiakos Nicosia, is taking part in the 1967-68 First Division 18-team Greek competition.

● AC Milan invited Sweden's national team to train at their headquarters for a week next month. The invitation was issued by Milan's new Swedish winger, Kurt Hamrin (ex-Fiorentina).

● Tim, the former Fluminense coach, has joined San Lorenzo de Almagro (Argentina).

● Raimundo Saporta, Real Madrid's dynamic young treasurer, wants to resign. Saporta, a close friend of former president, Santiago Bernabeu, is not keen to carry on now that Bernabeu has retired.

● Heinz Schoch, Alemannia Aachen's goalkeeper, was awarded a medal for bravery when he jumped into a river to save a small boy from drowning recently.

● Mauro, Brazil's World Cup skipper in Chile in 1962, has signed a lucrative contract to captain-coach the leading Mexican club, Oro.

● Noel Cantwell, who toured Australia with Manchester United, was officially appointed team manager of Eire's national team and of Coventry City last week.

Only if it counts . . .

France hasn't won a single friendly international since 1960. However, in matches that count they do much better; last year they reached the World Cup finals and this year they have almost certainly qualified for the quarterfinals of the European Championship.

No kidding

"We are going to win in Budapest," said Thomas McGrath, president of the Irish Dundalk, before his team's European Cup return match. Vasas actually won 8-1. Said McGrath after the game: "You know, we Irish at times exaggerate . . ."

Greeks have a chance

Following Russia's 0-1 defeat against Austria in Vienna last Sunday week, Greece is in with a chance of qualifying for the quarterfinals of the European Championship. The Russians at this stage have a three-point lead over Greece, but must play in Athens on October 31. In the event of a Greek win, the Austria-Greece game in Vienna on November 5 will determine the winner of the group. If Greece wins both matches they will top the group, one point ahead of the USSR. Austria are out of the running, having ruined their chances when beaten 1-4 by Greece in Athens earlier this month.

Asia's Olympic qualifiers

This is how the teams finished in Group I of the Asian Olympic qualification zone: 1 Japan, 2 South Korea, 3 Lebanon, 4 South Vietnam, 5 Nationalist China, 6 Philippines. The round-robin was played in Tokyo between October 1 and 10. Japan edged South Korea out of a berth in the finals in Mexico only on goal-average, both teams recording four wins and a draw (against each other). Burma are favored to win Asia's second Olympic berth for the finals in Group II, which may be played early next year in Hong Kong or Indonesia.

SCOREBOARD

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Northern Ireland v. 1-0; Red Star v. Rouen 2-0; Scotland 1-0; Wales v. England 0-3.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCHES: Switzerland v. Austria 1-0.

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP FINAL (First "leg"): Celtic Glasgow v. Racing Buenos Aires (Argentina) 1-0.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) v. Olympiakos Cyprus 3-1; Rapid Bucharest (Rumania) v. Trakia Plovdiv (Bulgaria) 3-0; Hvidovre (Denmark) v. FC Basel (Switzerland) 3-3; Anderlecht (Belgium) v. Karlmarxstadt (East Germany) 2-1.

EUROPEAN CUPWINNERS' CUP: Panathinaikos (Greece) v. Bayern Munchen (West Germany) 1-2; Standard Liege (Belgium) v. Altay Izmir (Turkey) 0-0.

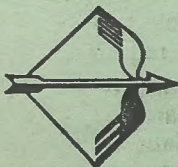
FAIR CITIES' CUP: Leeds v. Spora (Luxembourg) 7-0; Nottingham Forest (England) v. Eintracht Frankfurt (West Germany) 4-0; Hannover 96 (West Germany) v. FC Napoli (Italy) 1-1; Goetze Izmir (Turkey) v. Royal Antwerp (Belgium) 0-0.

PORTUGAL: Academica v. Sporting Lisbon 2-0; Belenenses v. Benfica 0-0; Sanjoanense v. Porto 1-1; Braga v. Setubal 1-3; CUF v. Varzim 1-2; Tirsense v. Guimaraes 1-2; Leixoes v. Barreirense 3-0.

SWITZERLAND: Grasshoppers v. Sion 2-1; Grenchen v. Chaux-de-Fonds 1-1; Lugano v. Lausanne 3-1; Lucerne v. Bellinzona 0-1; Servette Geneva v. Young Boys 2-0; Young Fellows v. FC Zurich 0-4.

YUGOSLAVIA: Partizan v. Red Star 1-0; Zagreb v. Hajduk 0-1; Proleter v. Olimpija 2-0; Vardar v. Zeljeznicar 0-2; Velez v. Dinamo Zagreb 1-2; Maribor v. Rijeka 5-3; Sarajevo v. Radnicki 2-0; OFK Belgrade v. Vojvodina 2-0.

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★ TOURISTS' PORTRAITS

Many fresh talents in Asia-bound side

Below we introduce members of the Australian team about to leave for Saigon.

We have not included the NSW players as these are too well known by our readers.

Attila Abonyi 21, (Melbourne).

This Hungarian-born inside forward or right winger has a wealth of senior experience behind him, made his debut for the Melbourne first team at the ripe old age of 15 and has never looked back.

One of the best-ever locally produced players whose play has been admired by several overseas visiting managers, he is one of the few real strikers and a productive one into the bargain in Victorian soccer.

A clerk, he is engaged to be married.

Frank Micic 26, (Footscray JUST).

This wing-half who came to Australia from Yugoslavia as a youth, has been with the Footscray club for nearly eight years and almost all the time as a first team regular.

Winner of the Argus best and fairest award in 1964 and again in 1967, he has never been cautioned or ordered off.

He has represented Victoria 30 times, works with the food and chocolate manufacturing company, Nestles, is married with a baby daughter and has his own home in the seaside suburb of Beaumaris.

William Vojtek 23, (Croatia).

A Croatian-born inside-forward or centre, product of Essendon Juniors, joined Croatia in 1962 and barring injury has been an ever-present.

Played for Victoria against AS Roma and Sparta Prague.

Recently married to a school teacher, Billy is a tailors cutter and has a twin brother, Jimmy, who has often played alongside with him in Croatia first team.

George Keith, 23 (Hakoah).

Scottish-born and a schoolboy international at 15 against England where he caught the eye of English scouts and signed as

an apprentice professional for Arsenal.

Two years with the "Gunnars" he returned to Scotland in early 1964 and joined Morton then in the Scottish Second Division.

Eventually transferred to Third Lanark in the First Division (now defunct), he played with this club alongside Johnny Anderson (Hellas) and Duncan McKay (Croatia). Played for Victoria against Manchester United.

Married, he is a works study engineer with Chrysler.

Dick Van Alphen, 30, (Hakoah).

The veteran of the Australian side, came to Australia five years ago after playing first class soccer in his native country — Holland.

Was with Wilhelmina for several years before being transferred for a considerable fee to Hakoah midway through the 1966 season.

Constructive and never flustered, Dick is one of soccer's gentlemen both on and off the field. Married.

QUEENSLAND

Ray Richards — 23, (Hollandia-Inala).

Powerfully built, but with a beautiful sense of balance and a devastating shot in either foot, Richards is the best attacker I have seen in Australian football.

A splendid all-round footballer, he is one of the very few players here who has really mastered the art of turning even the ghost of a chance into a goal, and since joining Hollandia, has swept them from a team facing relegation to Grand Champions.

Possesses all the attributes of a first-class player; a superb dribbler, brilliant opportunist, and has a magnificent sense of timing which has probably pro-

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duced some of the most spectacular goals seen in the game in Brisbane.

Public opinion polls in Queensland this season have unanimously placed Richards as the "Footballer of the Year." Trade: Bread vendor. Joined Hollandia this season from Latrobe, for whom he had played since his arrival from Croydon (England) in April, 1963.

Gary Wilkins, 22 (Hollandia-Inala).

Winner of the 1967 "Courier-Mail" Best and Fairest, Queensland's top individual award, Wilkins has made giant strides this season from a good club player to international material.

Solidly built, his tackling and powers of recovery are apt to be suspect at times, but in possession can be extremely dangerous, and loves to attack.

Wilkins is a cultured ball-player who seldom wastes a pass, and is adept with the long ball, which he can place on a sixpence.

In this company I fear he may be found wanting slightly, but he will not be disgraced.

A local lad, Wilkins represented Queensland in the 1964 national youth Championships, and has since matured into a polished and extremely popular performer. His only State appearance was against Manchester United in June.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Roger Romanowicz, 20, (Polonia Adelaide).

This fresh-faced youngster was born in Germany but came to Adelaide as an infant and consequently learnt all his soccer skills here.

Started as a half back with Polonia junior colts and played his first senior game in February 1964.

An apprentice fitter and turner with Apac Industries, he has tallied over 100 senior games for Polonia.

Was SA Youth team keeper between 1963 and '66 and represented SA against AS Roma, Sing Tao, Sparta Prague and Manchester United.

Tommy McColl, 22, (Juventus Adelaide).

Former Colchester and Chelsea forward, began his Australian career by scoring two goals for his new club against Burnside-Budapest, only four days after his arrival in Adelaide.

Represented SA against Sing Tao, Sparta Prague, Manchester United and twice against Victoria.

Scored a great goal against the Chinese team and in the first match against Victoria was also among the goalscorers.

Was included in the Australian squad for the internationals against Scotland but failed to gain selection in any of the three games.

A clever ball player with a deceptive body swerve and an accurate shot for goal.

Ted De Lyster, 20, (WA Hellas).

Of Dutch origin, De Lyster is one of the smartest ball-playing forwards ever to represent SA.

Was selected in the Australian Youth team following his outstanding carnival performance in 1964.

Made his senior State debut against Northern NSW while still a school-boy.

Previously a mid-field link man, he took over the left-wing striker position when Alec Byrne left Hellas to coach Juventus.

Missed selection against Manchester but deserves Australian representation in his present scintillating mood.

A wearer of contact lenses, he not only creates openings but has the shooting power to be among the top scorers on tour.

ADELAIDE RESULTS

A last-minute penalty kick enabled West Adelaide Hellas to secure an honorable 3-3 draw against their "sister" club, South Melbourne-Hellas at Hindmarsh last Saturday.

The local side were badly disorganised in defence without their coach, Tom Forde and stopper, Roy Burdett.

The Victorians, well led by veteran international Con Nestorides, waltzed through the easy defence to score three times in 28 minutes.

West Adelaide seemed certain to be swamped but they staged an amazing recovery in the second half.

Scorers: Batchelor 2, Pantelis; Kamboropoulos 2, Ackerley.

Beograd-Woodville qualified for the 1968 Ampol Cup despite a 1-2 loss to Elizabeth City in the second leg elimination game last Saturday.

Beograd won the first game 4-2.

ADELAIDE HAS HIGH CONTENT

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

With three players and one of the tour directors in the party to tour Southeast Asia, SA has its best representation ever in an Australian team.

I agree entirely with the selection of goalkeeper Roger Romanowicz and superb ball artist, Ted De Lyster.

It would have been a crime if either had been overlooked.

However, I have reservations about the choice of Tommy McColl.

When the former Chelsea junior first joined Juventus he was a sensation.

His form during the latter stages of the league season and in the cup competitions left a great deal to be desired.

McColl lost his sharp edge and would indeed be lucky to gain State selection at the moment.

He must have impressed in trials, however, and I trust he can recapture his penetrative zip for Australia.

The unluckiest Adelaide player to miss out on selection is Nick Pantelis of West Adelaide Hellas.

Originally chosen to tour, Pantelis had to relinquish his place because he is not a naturalised Australian.

Pantelis, 22, a Greek, has been in Adelaide for only three years.

His club strove to have his naturalisation speeded up but he must have a further 18 months residential qualification before he can become an Australian.

The only way he could accelerate the naturalisation ceremony would be to marry.

Pantelis is engaged to an Australian-born Greek girl, but they do not plan to marry for at least another 12 months.

Understandably disappointed, Pantelis was proud to have been chosen and feels that he has missed the chance of a lifetime.

VICTORIAN COLTS

These are the two Melbourne players selected for the Under-23 tour of New Caledonia:

● David Baker (Hakoah), Englishman who plays either fullback or winghalf. Not a regular in the Hakoah team during the past season.

● Henri Surma (Melbourne), Polish-born, but played all his senior soccer with Melbourne and a product of their junior ranks.

The only other SA player who I would consider worthy of selection is Johnny Perin of Adelaide Juventus.

The brilliant 20-year-old can make a soccer ball "talk" and deserved his chance.

Former internationals Alex Hastings (Scotland) and Tom Forde (Nth. Ireland) have both expressed opinions that Perin, given the chance, would prove himself in world class company.

Queensland satisfied

Queenslanders generally are satisfied with the State's representation in our national and under-23 touring squads.

In Ray Richards and Gary Wilkins, both of whom hail from national selector Reg Tatters' club, Hollandia, Queensland will be well represented.

Both are fine footballers, and should benefit greatly from their experience, particularly Wilkins, whose improvement over the past 12 months has been phenomenal.

Although our three under-23 representatives will not be known to southern fans, at least two must have been well in the running for even higher honors.

Goalkeeper Ross Kelly, although inclined to be inconsistent, is capable of lifting his game to the occasion.

Ian Johnston, since his return from the 1965 World Cup tour, has been struggling to hold his place in his club team, Coalstars, and last season was not even considered for the State side.

Queensland's greatest prospect of the three is 20-year-old Grange-Thistle centre-half George Whittaker.

Almost unbeatable in the air, his fine form should set the Sydney scouts' hearts a-flutter.

With one possible exception in Johnston, I feel Tatters has chosen wisely and well, and Queensland can rest content that her best have been sent to do battle.

— Alan Fouché

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ARE BEST

New M.C. must give itself better chance

— By PAUL DEAN —

Five? Seven? Nine? Or just one but tough and merciless?

In other words, how many men should we have on the new management committee, to be chosen next month?

Regrettably enough, there is a great amount of confusion surrounding the issue.

How did this come about? Halfway through the season the majority of First Division clubs became disenchanted with the Federation's leadership.

They claimed, not without good reason, that the management committee had achieved little, neglected plenty.

Gradually the feeling developed that by simply replacing the nine men with new ones nothing would be altered; the entire system of administration must be modernised.

It was here that everybody got into the act.

Clubs, big and small, had their own ideas of what's wrong with soccer; the coaches and referees had their say and so did the Press.

An incredible number of side-issues were introduced and, not very surprisingly, the essence of the whole matter was beginning to vanish.

The essence was — and still is — simply this: what is the best method of administering the business of the Federation?

On this subject we have several times expressed our views.

However, as so many harangues are apt to have side-tracked some of our club officials, here we summarise again our opinions.

We feel that the less people serve on a management committee the better; five better than seven, three even better than five.

It's only logical that it's easier to find five able men than to find seven or nine; the more you put there, the greater the chance for friction.

As Jim Bayutti once said, "the ideal Board is the one that has only three Directors with two away sick".

So, on this point, we recommend the election of five.

Now, the identity of the five.

Short of campaigning on behalf of anybody, something we have always avoided, we simply state that the chosen five need to have qualities well above the ordinary.

Let's understand for once and all that neither devotion to the game nor honesty in itself are sufficient to lead the game.

There is plenty of room and scope in soccer for everybody who is interested and capable; but the leadership, at the peak of the pyramid, mustn't be the toy of dilettantes.

Let's have men who, in some other capacities, have proved their ability.

One of the tragedies of Sydney soccer in recent years has been what can be best described as the "cast-off" system.

Far too many who have become redundant in their clubs or whose clubs even ceased to exist were accepted into the management committee.

In other words, clubs have kept their best men — and agreed to send in to the Federation those they could spare.

Then they were surprised that things didn't work out...

Lately there have been suggestions that the new management committee include rep-

resentatives of the junior organisation, referees or coaches.

This, of course, is complete nonsense.

The management committee should be a thinly-layered elite, not a broad base.

We know there is a need for the coaches and referees to be represented — but having a voice in the Council should be enough.

Neither body can contribute much to the daily routine running of the Federation.

It is also essential that the incoming new management

committee learn to delegate authority.

The best way of doing this is to form sub-committees to concentrate on one task only — junior, country, publicity, ground improvements, etc.

If this is done, there is a fair chance that the new system will be an improvement on the present one.

Especially if the First and Second Division clubs, which from now on will look after their own routine affairs, are really interested in achieving results, not just holding palavers.

EUROPEAN CUP DRAWS

— SECOND ROUND —

Champions' Cup

The draw for the European Champions' Cup Second Round is: Hvidovre (Denmark) v. Real Madrid (Spain); Dinamo Kiev (Soviet Union) v. Gornik Zabrze (Poland); Rapid Vienna (Austria) v. Eintracht Brunswick (West Germany); Benfica (Portugal) v. St. Etienne (France); Sarajevo (Yugoslavia) v. Manchester United (England); Vasas Budapest (Hungary) v. Valur Reykjavik (Iceland); Juventus (Italy) v. Rapid Bucharest (Rumania); Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) v. Anderlecht (Belgium).

Cupwinners' Cup

The draw for the Second Round of the European Cupwinners' Cup was made in Madrid last Friday. The pairings are: Standard Liege (Belgium) v. Aberdeen (Scotland); Torpedo Moscow (USSR) v. Spartak Trnava (Czechoslovakia); Bayern Munich (West Germany) v. Vitoria Setubal (Portugal); NAC Breda (Holland) v. Cardiff City (Wales); Lyon (France) v. Tottenham Hotspur (England); Gyor (Hungary) v. AC Milan (Italy); Wisla Krakow (Poland) v. Rapid Hamburg (West Germany); Valencia (Spain) v. Steaua (Rumania).

YUGAL DENY REPORT ON AMALGAMATION

Recently the "Mirror" published several misleading stories about our club.

We refer to articles entitled "Yugal prepared to marry" (DM 6/9/67); "Bankstown-Yugal joint club plan — progress towards merger" (DM 12/9/67) and again a reference to the same subject under the article's heading: "Fuzes shock pick as 'keeper'" (DM 13/9/67).

We wish to point out that the writer was completely misinformed on Yugal's "merger", "marriage" or of any attempt on our part to "hawk" our "First Division status" with any district or club.

There is not, as yet, even a hint by us or anybody else to start such negotiations and therefore it could hardly be said that our "efforts to find a district ... appear to be foundering" (DM 13/9/67).

Further we wish to point out that our attitude towards "district soccer" is well known within the Federation.

If and when we receive such proposal from any quarter we will treat it with due respect and the greatest consideration will be given to it on basis of:

a). what we can contribute to such a club or district;
b). what we, as a club, can gain from it, and
c). above all, how will the code as a whole benefit from such a "merger".

Until such time we shall continue to do what we can to promote, in our opinion, the "best football code in the world" to the best of our ability and know-how.

M. KOVACEVICH,
HON. SECRETARY,
YUGAL CLUB LTD.

History needed

A former Londoner and follower of Arsenal, I now live in Canberra, still helping the game.

Before I left London I tried to buy a copy of "History of Australian Soccer".

I called at the FA Headquarters in London and went to libraries and bookshops; all tried to help but got the same answer: NONE AVAILABLE.

Since being here I tried both in Sydney and Melbourne and at the National Library — same replies...

Can you help me? Fancy a game going for some 75 years and having no official history. I can't believe that.

There is a pressing need for the Australian Federation to do something as such a

book could give the code prestige and preserve tradition.

I admire the progress of your paper and offer my best congratulations.

ALF ROYLAND
("POMMY")
AINSLIE, ACT.

● We share your amazement and indignation; such a book should be an absolute must. — Ed.

Contest idea

I enjoyed your Contests this year.

As an idea, if they are to be continued, perhaps in the future an appropriate prize could be a free passage on a soccer tour with the Australian team to Asia or wherever the team might be going at the time.

G. BERNHARDT,
ADAMSTOWN, NSW.

● Nice thought, but probably impractical; the Australian tours are usually so uncertain and off-changing that by keeping our winner on tenterhooks for weeks or months we would punish him, not reward him. — Ed.

Stand down

I would like to record my disgust at the treatment dished out to Pat Hughes of APIA by the selectors.

Hughes, for considering the welfare of his family and business future, got the axe with no proper explanation, even after his employer had a change of heart and offered him leave.

I feel these people who call themselves selectors would do soccer a great service if they stood down at once, and give the job back to Jim Bayutti who seemed to know what has to be done and did just that.

BILL HUGHES,
Ex-APIA committeeman,
BEXLEY NORTH.
(No relation to Pat!)

Lowest ebb

I disagree with sentiments that any Australian team should be based on Sydney players.

Experience gained by lads from Queensland, South Australia and the other States would improve their own skill as well as the overall standard of their playing districts.

Anyway, is NSW really that far ahead?

READERS' LETTERS

Western Australia, described in your paper as one of the weakest in this country, on their recent Asian tour scored 13 goals and conceded 16.

A predominantly Sydney-based Australia in 1965 scored six in Asia while letting in 11 (excluding the AIK Stockholm match), though they had one more game than WA.

Another thing that puzzles me is politics in sport.

I have it on good authority that the only reason why Joe Venglos was not appointed coach of the Australian team to Vietnam was due to political reasons.

What right have outside interests to dictate who is to coach our team?

I never thought the day would come when Australia would stoop so low in sportsmanship.

This farce must surely leave a sour taste in the mouths of many, and particularly Joe Venglos.

G. CHRISTOPHERSON,
AUBURN.

● Regarding the Venglos case, ASF secretary Ian McAndrew officially informed us that Venglos could not be released from his High School where he recently got appointed and gained a five-year seniority. We also heard rumors of political tinting and it may be true that the Education Department's decision actually saved the ASF from the embarrassment of excluding Venglos on other grounds. Actually, Venglos is a Czechoslovakian citizen, travelling with a passport of that country and the Government of South Vietnam has the sovereign right to admit or not to admit anybody it likes to its war-torn country. — Ed.

Import refs

The incident-free Australia Cup matches I saw in Sydney controlled by interstate referees convinces me that all our top club games should be refereed by interstate whistlers.

Somebody with no ties in Sydney, who knows nothing or little about the rivalry between local clubs, would be the ideal choice.

If this practice were followed in Sydney cup finals or big premiership matches, the spectators would have no excuse to blame the referee for alleged favoritism or bias.

An interstate referee may not be perfect; in fact he may even lack the authority of some of our top whistlers, but at least he will not be accused of "ruining" matches or "falsifying" results as some Sydney referees have been accused, rightly or wrongly.

I suggest the NSW Federation give this suggestion serious consideration as I feel that the appalling standard of refereeing has been the main cause for soccer's declining attendances and current ailments.

May I add that I'm an APIA supporter, and as such I was very upset at the treatment meted out to Pat Hughes.

This player, who has served Australia so well for two years, was honest enough to speak his mind on a delicate, but vital, matter.

For his integrity he was eliminated from the touring team.

If I were an APIA player I would feel justified in declining any future selection in any representative team as a protest for the way Pat Hughes was treated.

The Federation has knocked on APIA's door so many times in the past for representative players that their attitude in this instance is unfathomable.

Finally, I would also like to point out how surprised I was to read about Van Blerk's three-week suspension for a Grand Final incident for which he was only partially to blame.

It took two to start the rumpus that sent both players off, yet it was Van Blerk who copped the longest suspension.

Is it a coincidence that APIA players were sent off in two consecutive Grand Finals, which they lost with 10 men after winning the competition easily?

A. BRANDOLIN,
TEMPE.

We play bowls... ...or so they say

Last week a specially convened Council voted 22 to 9 against a management committee motion to have all "nationalistic" club names immediately changed to district ones.

The result of the voting was predictable, the tone of the debate pleasingly restrained.

Although all First Division clubs and some of the Second disagreed with the suggestion, the anticipated fireworks and personal attacks were happily absent.

Chances are that the incoming management committee will be instructed to reopen the case and investigate the ways and means of putting soccer on a broader, district basis.

In general principle, few of the clubs oppose the idea and most would be more than willing to try their luck in the suburbs.

However, none is in the mood to undertake such a risky proposition without a thorough preparation and some sort of assurance that the district they move into is also willing to accept and help them.

During the debate, we recorded some interesting

and a few intriguing statements.

John Thomson: "Migrants have become assimilated and stay away from the games ... you can meet them in Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and bowling clubs instead of soccer grounds."

"The English and Scottish migrants want to watch soccer, not a few nationalistic clubs."

Eddie Provera: "There is only one effective way to improve soccer and that is by lifting our playing standards."

Vic Capeletto: "APIA will never consider changing its present name under any circumstances."

George Warner: "The motion was not one from the full management committee but of one man."

"At present 99 per cent of the clubs do have a district or suburban tag in their names. So it's not the name that you want to have changed, but the organisation of the clubs."

Ben Nathan: "Most of the sporting editors in Sydney suffer from xenophobia."

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FLOTTA LAURO